

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification to correct informalities noted by the Office, has amended FIG. 3 to add in the missing reference numeral 330, has amended claim 19, and has added new claims 22-29. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. In view of the following remarks, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and allowance of claims 1-29.

The Office has objected to the disclosure asserting that the serial numbers and/or patent numbers of the applications cited in the above-identified patent application should be cited. Accordingly, Applicant have amended the specification to include these numbers and to correct a typographical error as illustrated above. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection to the specification.

The Office has objected to claims 5, 11 and 17, asserting that the word "recency" should be corrected to "relevancy" in each of the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection because the use of the term "recency" in these claims is correct. As set forth in Webster's New World Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, the term recency means of a time just before the present. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw its rejection of claims 5, 11 and 17 based on Applicant's use of the term recency.

The Office has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,532 to Horibe ("Horibe") in view of U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 6,377,965 to Hachamovitch ("Hachamovitch"). In particular, the Office asserts that Horibe discloses all the method/system/media claims related to an electronic message management system wherein the method/system/media comprises: a related message determination device (120) that determines one or more related electronic messages to a new electronic message (extracting related messages to a new or reply message: a message control device (220) that assembles (merging) the one or more related electronic messages; a message display device (140) that simultaneously displays a portion (title) of the one or more related electronic messages (see fig. 4 and col. 2, lines 40-54 and col. 7, lines 35-58, where when reply bottom is selected message one and related message are displayed).

The Office concedes that Horibe fails to disclose non-disruptively displaying the one or more related message, but asserts that Hachamovitch teaches a user may start entering a data on a body portion of an email message and auto complete-utility may then non-disruptively display the associated data with the partially entered data.

Neither Horibe nor Hachamovitch, alone or in combination, suggest or disclose, “a message display device that nondisruptively displays a portion of the one or more related electronic messages” as recited in claim 1, “nondisruptively displaying a portion of the one or more related electronic messages” as recited in claim 7, “information that nondisruptively displays a portion of the one or more related electronic messages” as recited in claim 13, or “an output device adapted to nondisruptively communicate the related electronic messages” as recited in claim 19. As the Office has acknowledged, Horibe does not teach or suggest non-disruptively displaying the one or more related electronic messages. The Office’s attention is respectfully directed to col. 4, lines 10-13 in Hachamovitch which states, “The present invention is a word completion system that can automatically predict unrestricted word completions for data entries in an unstructured portion of a data file, such as the body of a word processing document or email message.” As disclosed at col. 4, lines 16-19 in Hachamovitch, “Suggested word completions, which may change as the user types a partial data entry, are displayed in a non-disruptive manner.” Accordingly, Hachamovitch only discloses non-disruptively displaying suggested word completions for data entries, not a non-disruptive display of related messages. The Office has cited to FIG. 2 and col. 10, lines 17-37 in Hachamovitch as providing support for its position, however this figure and section of text merely illustrates and states that a completion suggestion for a partial data entry appears above that entry. As a result, if Horibe is taken in view of the teachings of Hachamovitch as suggested by the Office, the references would merely disclose providing completion suggestions to a partial data entry at a user client 20 for a message being typed in before being sent to the message input and display unit 140, not for the non-disruptive display of related electronic messages. There is simply nothing in either reference which discloses or suggests such a non-disruptive display of related electronic messages. In fact, as disclosed at col. 7, lines 49-51 in Horibe, to view the display screen for the electronic conference a request from a participant is required. As a result, the user must execute an additional step to see the message relations list on a full screen.

As disclosed at page 2, lines 15-17 in the above-identified patent application, with prior systems and methods there is an extra step required to locate and view messages from the past conversational history. With the present invention, as disclosed at page 6, lines 21-24 in the above-identified patent application, during the composition of a new message, the user is provided with a non-disruptive display of one or more of the related electronic messages which can be selected and viewed to assist in the composition. As a result, the present invention provides the user with information about other related messages which may be of interest without disrupting the user's work.

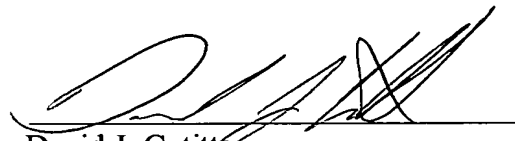
Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19. Since claims 2-6 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, claims 8-12 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 7, claims 14-19 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 13, and claims 20 and 21 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 19 they are patentable in the same manner as claims 1, 7, 13 and 19.

Applicant have also added new claims 22-29 which are believed to be in condition for allowance. None of the cited references, alone or in combination, are believed to disclose or suggest determining one or more related electronic messages during a creation of the new electronic message and nondisruptively displaying the portion of the one or more related electronic messages during the creation of the new electronic message or determining one or more related electronic messages based on one or more rules entering the one or more rules before the determining. As disclosed at col. 6, line 49 to col. 7, line 30 in Horibe, each of the nodes for the message relations list is formed once the message is posted, i.e. completed, and the relationship between the messages is based on whether the new message is a parent message, a reply to the present message, or a reply to the parent message. As disclosed at page 6, lines 21-24 in the above-identified patent application, with the non-disruptive display of related electronic messages during the creation of the electronic message, the user can select one or more of the related electronic messages to view to assist in the completion of the composition of the new message. Additionally, with the present invention a user can adjust and customize the rules for determining related electronic messages for the particular application.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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